

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 01384 311708Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
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R 311107Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0881

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FOLG SENT ACTION DELHI INFO DACCA DATED JAN 31 1977  
RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QIOTE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CALCUTTA 0247

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN  
SUBJ: INDIA/BANGLADESH MEETING ON BORDER SECURITY

1. ON RETURN TO CALCUTTA JANUARY 29 FROM DACCA, INDIAN  
BORDER SECURITY FORCE DIRECTOR GENERAL ASWINI KUMAR SPOKE  
TO THE PRESS ABOUT HIS TALKS LAST WEEK WITH HIS BANGLA-  
DESH COUNTERPARTS. CALCUTTA PAPERS GIVE KUMAR'S REMARKS  
HEAVY PLAY. THEY ARE REPORTED IN TOP SPOT ON FRONT PAGES  
OF BOTH STATESMAN AND AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA.

2. STATESMAN STORY IS HEADLINED "FRESH BORDER TALKS WITH  
DACCA IN APRIL" AND HIGHLIGHTS STATEMENT BY KUMAR EX-  
PRESSING HOPE THAT THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE  
APPROPRIATE STEPS "TO IMPROVE FURTHER THE SITUATION IN  
THE BORDER AREAS." AMRITA STORY IS HEADLINED "BSF-BDR  
TALKS AT DACCA FAIL" AND MAKES IT PLAIN - WITH AMPLE  
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CITATIONS FROM KUMAR AND OTHER MEMBERS OF INDIAN DELEGA-  
TION - THAT THE FAULT FOR THE FAILURE IS BANGLADESH'S.  
AMRITA REPORTS KUMAR SAID THAT A JOINT STATEMENT WAS  
DRAFTED AT THE END OF THE TALKS ON JANUARY 29 BUT BANG-  
LADESH RIFLES DIRECTOR GENERAL DASTAGIR REFUSED TO SIGN  
IT. PAPER CITES A MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION (NOT  
IDENTIFIED) AS SAYING THAT THE TALKS BROKE DOWN OVER

"TWO VITAL ISSUES". THESE WERE:

A) INDIAN INSISTENCE THAT "APPROPRIATE STEPS BE TAKEN TO STOP IMMEDIATELY THE PROPAGANDA AND PUBLICITY OF VILIFICATION THAT WAS BEING CARRIED ON BY THE BANGLADESH MEDIA AGAINST THE INDIAN POLITICAL LEADERS, THE BORDER SECURITY FORCE AND OTHER FORCES"; AND

B) INDIAN COMPLAINT THAT "HOSTILE, ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS HAD BEEN GIVEN SANCTUARY, ARMS AND TRAINING IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACT OF BANGLADESH" AND REQUEST THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO STOP THIS IMMEDIATELY.

3. COMMENTING ON BANGLADESH CHARGES OF INFILTRATION FROM INDIA, KUMAR IS REPORTED BY AMRITA TO HAVE SAID THAT SO-CALLED INFILTRATORS FROM INDIA WERE IN FACT GARO CHRISTIANS AND MOSLEMS WHO HAD BEEN FORCED BY BANGLADESH RIFLES TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES IN BANGLADESH AND WERE SEEKING TO ENTER INDIA. INDIAN BORDER SECURITY FORCE "THREW THE INTRUDERS BACK." BOTH AMRITA AND STATESMAN REPORT THAT KUMAR COMPLAINED THAT DUITTYWIYDDNKEALHUP DAC-OITIES WERE COMMITTED ON INDIAN TERRITORY BY GANGS FROM BANGLADESH AND ONE THOUSAND HEAD OF CATTLE STOLEN. KUMAR ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID SMUGGLING FROM BANGLADESH INTO INDIAN CONTINUES ON LARGE SCALE AND THAT IN 1976 THE INDIAN BSF SEIZED RS 11 LAKHS OF SMUGGLED GOODS ALONG THE BANGLADESH BORDER.

4. MASS CIRCULATION BENGALI LANGUAGE ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA STRESSES THE POSITIVE IN REPORTING THIS STORY, HEADLINING IT "PROGRESS AT DACCA: NEXT ROUND IN DELHI." PAPER PLAYS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOWN KUMAR'S NEGATIVE REMARKS ABOUT BANGLADESH AND REPORTS HIM AS SAYING THAT THE BORDER TALKS WERE A STEP TOWARD BUILDING A CLIMATE OF NEIGHBORLINESS. HOWEVER, BENGALI LANGUAGE JUGANTAR FOLLOWS LINE OF ITS SISTER PAPER AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA IN TERMING THE TALKS A FAILURE AND REPORTING KUMAR'S CRITICISMS EXTENSIVELY.

KORN UNQUOTE  
SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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